

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

Filed: August 6, 2018

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SHELLY PLESCIA,	*	UNPUBLISHED
	*	
Petitioner,	*	No. 15-1472V
	*	
v.	*	Special Master Gowen
	*	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	*	Joint Stipulation; Influenza (“Flu”);
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”).
	*	
Respondent.	*	
* * * * *	*	

Maximillian J. Muller, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.

Amy Paula Kokot, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

### **DECISION ON STIPULATION<sup>1</sup>**

On December 4, 2016, Shelly Plescia (“Petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.<sup>2</sup> Petitioner filed an amended petition on October 1, 2014, which alleged that she suffered from a left-shoulder injury as a result of an influenza vaccine administered on or about October 10, 2014. Amended Petition at Preamble; Stipulation at ¶ 4.

On August 6, 2018, the parties filed a joint stipulation (“Stipulation”) in which they stated that a decision should be entered awarding compensation to petitioner. ECF No. 51. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine administered on or about October 10, 2014, is the cause

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the E-Government Act of 2002, *see* 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012), **because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post it on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims.** The court’s website is at <http://www.uscfc.uscourts.gov/aggregator/sources/7>. Before the decision is posted on the court’s website, each party has 14 days to file a motion requesting redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b). “An objecting party must provide the court with a proposed redacted version of the decision.” *Id.* **If neither party files a motion for redaction within 14 days, the decision will be posted on the court’s website without any changes. *Id.***

<sup>2</sup> The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2012) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

of petitioner's alleged left-shoulder injury and/or any other injury or her current condition. *Id.* at ¶ 6.

Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding compensation to petitioner according to the terms of the joint stipulation attached hereto as Appendix A.

**The joint stipulation awards:**

- 1) A lump sum of \$40,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).**

**I find the stipulation reasonable and I adopt it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.**

Accordingly, the Clerk of the Court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Thomas L. Gowen**  
Thomas L. Gowen  
Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

No. 15-1472V (ECF)  
Special Master Gowen

<sup>1</sup> In her initial petition, filed on December 4, 2015, petitioner alleged that a flu vaccine, administered on October 14, 2014, caused her to develop “brachial plexus neuritis, neuropathy and adhesive capsulitis, among other injuries.” Petition at 1 (Dec. 4, 2015). The amended petition, filed on April 28, 2016, alleges that the flu vaccination, administered on October 10, 2014 (consistent with the vaccination record), caused petitioner to develop a left shoulder injury. Amended Petition at 1 (Apr. 28, 2016).

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine administered on or about October 10, 2014, is the cause of petitioner's alleged left shoulder injury and/or any other injury or her current condition.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$40,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and her attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies,

Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation, and any amount awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation, will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity, and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors and/or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccination administered on or about October 10, 2014, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about December 4, 2015, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 15-1472V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's alleged left shoulder injury, or any other injury or her current condition.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

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Respectfully submitted,

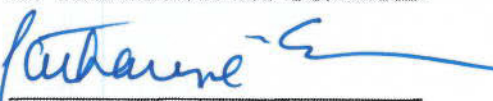
**PETITIONER:**

  
SHELLY PLESCIA

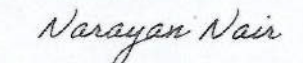
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Dated: 8/6/2018